Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE — Radio Service — OFFICE OF INFORMATION

HOMEMAKERS' CHAT WEDNESDAY, June 26, 1940

(FOR BROADCAST USE ONLY)

SUBJECT: "TRAVEL CLOTHES FOR THE FAMILY." Information from the Bureau of Home Economics, U.S.D.A.

--ooOoo--

The success of a vacation trip often depends a good deal on clothes. That goes for the children, and Mother, of course, even for Father. To have fun when you're travelling you need clothes that are comfortable --- clothes that won't make you suffer from the heat, and won't pull and bind because they're too tight. And then, you want clothes that won't soil or crease easily so you can feel at ease about your looks even after days on the road or in the train.

Some clothes take to travel pretty well. Some clothes keep looking trim in spite of heat, and dust, and cinders--in spite of long sitting or a good deal of wriggling around on the part of the wearer. Other clothes -- but never mind. Let's not talk about them today. Let's discuss the right kind of clothes to wear when you go tripping.

Let's begin with the children. Comfortable clothes are especially important for them. The pretty light crisp clothes suitable for birthday parties and Sunday school won't feel or look nice long on a train, or in the family automobile, or in a trailer. Comfortable clothes are smooth and soft, nothing stiff or scratchy about them. And they are loose-fitting so they don't draw at necks, or shoulders, or waists. Comfortable clothes also suit the weather. They are made of fabric not too firmly woven or too thick to allow for plenty of ventilation. So for little girls who are travelling a good choice is soft seersucker, or cotton crepe, or one of the cotton-knit fabrics that doesn't sag. Little boys will be comfortable in cotton suits with mesh or knit tops and gabadine or hopsacking trousers to harmonize. Such

fabrics are comfortable, and they keep their looks because they don't crease or crumple badly. They also wash easily and need little or no ironing. You can wash them out at night, and they'll be already for the youngsters to put on in the morning. If you're travelling where the weather is cool, sweaters and skirts, or sweaters and shorts are comfortable and convenient outfits for children.

Here's a tip worth noting. Collars and cuffs are hard to pack without wrinkling. They are often hot and uncomfortable to wear. Simple little round necks and plain short sleeves are more practical and neater looking.

There are a few ideas for comfortable travel clothes for the younger generation. Now about Mother's travel outfit. The stores are selling many attractive, cool, soft fabrics these days, any of them good travel choices. Among them are fine dark nets, cotton voiles and sheer rayons. You can buy these washable fabrics in both plain colors and prints. Prints with dark backgrounds take travel better than those with light backgrounds because they don't show soil. And here's something else. All-over designs on fabrics are very good about concealing soil. As between dark and light clothes, of course, everyone knows dark colors keep looking clean much longer. Rayon jersey is a fabric that will pack and wear day in and day out without wrinkling. For a summer evening dress the new crinkled organdie is another good packer.

As, of course, you know, many of the fabrics that used to wrinkle so badly are now treated by various methods to make them "crease-resistant." Linens, voiles, and some of the rayons that wrinkled badly are now for sale with this kind of finish. You'll be wise to make sure you have the crease resistant kind if you plan to wear any of these "wrinklers".

By the way, before you buy material to make your travel-frock, or before you buy a ready-made dress, try crushing it in your hand. See if the fabric wrinkles

easily, and especially whether it holds those wrinkles. If it holds the wrinkles when crushed by your hand, think what it will look like after an all-day ride on a train or in a car.

Now here's a tip about fabrics that resist soil: A smooth finish turns off the soil, but a fuzzy or nubby weave often catches dirt.

One of the unpleasantly familiar signs of travel in clothes is the sag at the back of the skirt. After a long hot day on a car seat, you know what the back of the skirt looks like. It's not only creased but it's also likely to sag or bag and spoil the trim look you would like to have. You can prevent this, first, by choosing a flaring skirt that is not tight over the hips; and then by choosing a fabric that won't wrinkle easily.

Let's give Father a word or two, while we're on the subject of travel clothes. On a hot day wool trousers on the wool seat of an automobile is the perfect combination to make the driver uncomfortable. For wear in heat many of the cotton fabrics now being made into men's clothing are far more comfortable. Men now have a choice of seersucker, hoosacking, gabardine and linen-like cottons, or that good old reliable long-wearing fabric -- corduroy, which is now made in light weights. Father can also buy linen suits, treated for crease-resistance, in many different colors from white and linen-color to dark brown and dark blue.

So now, to sum up what to wear for travelling, just remember: Dark colors for grown-ups, and medium dark for the youngsters; soft smooth fabrics that allow for ventilation; loose comfortable fit; and for children, at least, clothes not too difficult to wash. Remember the cotton knits the soft seersuckers, cotton crepe, and cottom mesh.

#########